GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1346
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2003
BILATERAL TIES WITH UK
AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government have a proposal to establish better bilateral relations with United Kingdom;

(b) If so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard during the current calendar year; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) Bilateral relations between India and the UK are already intense and diversified. Regular exchanges of high-level visits, including at the highest political level, have taken place. Cooperation in strengthening economic and commercial relations and building closer defence ties is continuing.

(b) & (c) Government of India is committed to further strengthening these relations based on the parameters of the New Delhi Declaration signed by the Prime Ministers of both countries on 6 January 2002. The Declaration established a roadmap for intensification of bilateral cooperation in counter-terrorism, peace and security, trade and investment, education and science and technology. UK has expressed its support to India`s candidature for permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council. Cooperation in combatting international terrorism has been established through the Joint Working Group on Terrorism. Economic and commercial ties are growing. Cooperation in S&T has been boosted by the setting up of a joint Networking Fund to facilitate collaborative ventures while educational and cultural exchanges also continue.